

# *The Church Connection*

*The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church Brawley*

*The week of Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.” These words about Jesus remind us of a challenge we often encounter in our own ministry and Christian walk. When we have known people long enough to identify their triumphs and failures we often fail to accept the possibility of change in their lives. When we live in a tight knit community, as we do here in Brawley, nothing is forgotten and everything is known. This can be a challenge. The key to meeting this challenge might be to embrace it rather than avoiding it or denying it. People will always question the motives of an individual who lives their life in contrast to how they used to. However, it is that very contrast that proclaims the transformational nature of the gospel.

We see in this week’s Scripture that the issue of being known extends beyond one’s past faults, expanding to one’s standing in society as well. Although Jesus was not confronted by a previous life of sin, he was confronted by the social structures of his community. How could he, the son of a carpenter, be anything other than a carpenter himself? How could he have any authority when he was not born into a family of status? The people were “astonished” by Jesus and his actions but they could not move beyond what they already knew of him. This rejection must have been a very painful point in Jesus’ ministry, yet it did not stop him from continuing his work and responding to God’s call.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim

## Mark 6:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!" <sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

## *October Dates to Remember*

- **Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>** A Congregational Meeting following worship to discuss our plans for the church side yard.
  - **Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Women's Luncheon**
- Loaves and Fishes**
- **Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Food Packing/Preparation**
  - **Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m. Food Distribution**
  - **Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>: Join us following worship for a Lake Picnic at the Elmore Ranch.**

***The Church Mouse is now Open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 - 2:00***

**The Mouse always welcomes your donations and is currently in need of kitchen and household items.**